The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 28, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
Thru Payroll Savings

WHOLE NO. 1891 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1945 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 35, NO. 42

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The fifteenth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, presented the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

Ten Million Members By 1950

By FRANK FENTON
AFL National Director of Organization

The membership of the American Federation of Labor is now seven million strong. By 1950 we expect to pass the ten million mark.

This information may not be relished by those who hope to see the trade union movement weakened or destroyed in the postwar period. Many articles have been written about the effect of postwar unemployment and lower production upon union membership. Anti-labor propagandists argue that since union membership dropped sharply after the last war, it should enter a similar tailspin now. That is just wishful thinking.

First of all, it should be clear by now that the trade union movement is firmly established in America and is here to stay. Most employers have learned that it is bad business, besides being illegal, to fight unionization of their workers. And most workers have learned that they need a union to protect their interests and improve their conditions.

This is especially true among skilled workers whose craft unions are firmly entrenched and make up the backbone of the American Federation of Labor. We believe that white-collar workers are also beginning to learn the fundamental lesson that only in union is there strength. It is to these white-collar workers that we look for the largest gains in union membership during the next five years.

The American Federation of Labor has two new up-and-coming unions in the white-collar field. These are the International Chemical Workers Union and the Office Employes International Union.

The chemical industry is due for tremendous expansion and much wider employment. Our aggressive AFL union is going to grow right along with the industry, because the workers will need the union to obtain the wage standards and working conditions to which the exacting and painstaking nature of their jobs entitle them.

Office workers in the past have served as a glaring example of the failure of disorganized workers to make any progress. But the old prejudices against unions have been discarded by these white-collar workers and we expect them to join our union in large numbers in order to better their conditions.

Another large source of increased union membership is the returning veterans. More than a million and a half of them were AFL members before entering the armed forces, and they are coming back to us, we know. We also extend a hearty welcome to the others to join our ranks and get a better break.

Labor and the Courts

By HERBERT S. THATCHER
Associate AFL General Counsel

The administration of justice by the courts touches the vital interests of every citizen. Organized labor is especially concerned that our federal courts be kept on the highest plane.

In years past, while labor was in the early stages of organization, the trade union movement took a terrible beating from the courts. It was a simple thing for an employer to get a court injunction paralyzing the activities of labor unions. Such injunctions were even used to prevent unions from supplying food to starving workers who were locked out.

Legislation cured that major evil. Today an entirely different picture presents itself. Today labor looks to the courts and frequently has been compelled to depend upon the courts to defend its basic rights and freedoms from invasion by anti-labor legislation. In recent years the wave of repressive legislation enacted in many states to hamstring labor has been broken by enlightened federal court decisions.

One of the reasons for this change was the appointment of more liberal judges to the bench. In the old days only a wealthy corporation lawyer, contemplating honorable retirement, could afford to serve on the bench because the remuneration was too low to attract younger men with a broader outlook. Also there were occasional instances of dishonest politicians seeking judicial office in order to enrich themselves by graft.

No one in America wants to go back to those days. Public confidence in our government requires the highest standards of integrity and ability for our federal courts.

Labor fears that these standards are now endangered by the pitifully low salaries still prescribed for judicial office. Too many of our best judges have been forced to resign from lifetime federal appointments because they could not get along on their low pay.

For these reasons, the American Federation of Labor urges favorable action by Congress on pending legislation to increase the salaries of the federal judiciary all the way from the district courts to the United States Supreme Court. It is not fitting or proper that the judges themselves should lobby for such legislation. But the President has asked Congress to adopt salary increases for judges, and labor is convinced that he is right. Members of Congress should vote promptly for higher pay for the federal judiciary.

Control of Atomic Power

By LEWIS G. HINES
AFL Legislative Representative

General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, told the nation this week that the power of the atom can be man's greatest benefit—or it can destroy him.

Now, that's the kind of challenge labor welcomes. Here we have the most powerful and inexhaustible source of energy ever discovered by science. How is it going to be applied? Is it going to be used to lighten the burdens of the common people throughout the world and enrich their lives, or is it going to be used as an instrument of mass murder?

There is only one intelligent answer to these questions: Application of atomic power in the form of destructive bombs must be outlawed. Our problem is not whether to share the secret of the atomic bomb with other nations. It is to obtain a hard-and-fast agreement among all nations that the atomic bomb will never again be used by any country to kill people. Otherwise, as one scientist told Congress this week, some enemy of the future could merely push a button and destroy every American city. That kind of warfare must be put under a complete and everlasting ban.

In return for such a hard-and-fast international commitment, I think it would be fair and proper for America to share the benefits of atomic energy with other nations—not the power to destroy but the power to build. True, the trick of using atomic energy as the servant of mankind hasn't been developed as yet. But our scientists are confident that it will be and that its possibilities are limitless.

It then behooves the American people to make certain now that the best scientific brains in the nation are put to work on this job and, at the same time, that control of atomic energy remains in the public's hands instead of slipping into the grasp of private interests. Atomic energy must be used for public good, not private gain.

In furtherance of these ideas, the American Federation of Labor asked Congress this week to establish a national research foundation under which the government would support and coordinate future scientific research. This is only the first step of many that will have to be taken in order to guarantee that the power of the atom will prove a blessing rather than a curse to humanity.

SAY, LISTEN!

For the rest of this year, the AFL presents each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M., EST, over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company a radio news-magazine, featuring the latest news at home and abroad and special reports by expert commentators on important labor problems. This program is listed in the radio columns of your newspaper as "Labor-U.S.A." Our own subtitle for the program is "The American Federationist of the Air." Don't miss these bright, newsy broadcasts! Listen every Saturday night!

Let Labor and Management Settle Their Own Problems, Experts Urge

Washington, D. C.—As America swings into peacetime production, labor and management should be given the fullest possible freedom—and responsibility—for working out their own collective bargaining agreements with a minimum of government intervention.

This recommendation was made by a special Labor Committee appointed by the Twentieth Century Fund. The committee, which has been making a long-term survey of collective bargaining practices in this country, is headed by William H. Davis, former chairman of the National War Labor Board, and the membership includes labor, management and "public" representative.

A strongly worded and unanimous statement of principles declared:

"The committee believes that collective bargaining aims are best achieved when government action on the myriad details of the management-union relationship has been reduced to a minimum. The more employers and employes depend upon bargaining by equal parties to achieve a practical compromise on wages, hours and work conditions, the more firmly rooted become the self-disciplines and the obligations to find the solutions among themselves rather than to ask for solutions ready-made."

As specific machinery to aid in carrying out such general principles, the committee suggested that with the coming of peace "voluntary mediation boards, composed equally of management, labor and public representatives, be established within every sizable industrial community."

These community mediation boards would operate on a purely voluntary basis and might "adjudicate industrial disputes in their areas, and perhaps even be empowered by the parties at interest to engage in final and binding arbitration rules." The boards would supplement federal and state mediation agencies.

"Personnel for these boards can be drawn from chambers of commerce, local unions, state commissions of labor, civic and educational bodies, the panels of the American Arbitration Association, as well as from among those who served on War Labor Board subdivisions throughout the country," the committee said.

"The very existence of these boards would tend to encourage localized, as against federal, settlement of management-labor controversy; to reverse the centralizing trends of submitting to Washington issues that can be more effectively decided in the local community."

The committee suggested that a second type of voluntary mediation board, to be composed of management and labor representatives, be established within each industry. The personnel for these boards, which would exclude any public representation at all, "would be drawn from employer and employe organizations other than those directly involved in a dispute."

Commenting on attitudes necessary to make such suggestions workable, the committee said:

"Necessarily, before collective bargaining can become a tool for industrial self-government, it must be actively affirmed, rather than merely accepted, by business as well as by labor and government, as the keystone in all relations between management and workers."

Following out this thought, the Twentieth Century Fund's Labor Committee recommended that "employers within an industry associate themselves into organizations designed to negotiate with unions, not to combat them." The committee pointed to British practices along these lines and noted the absence in America of any national organization of employers, as such, which might take in all industries and concern itself exclusively with industrial relations.

"Because with rare exceptions, we lack any such employer alignment, our bargaining is widely collective, with some notable exceptions, only on the part of one side—labor.

"In the absence of a prototype of the British arrangement for employer bargaining, or pending its establishment, the committee therefore recommends the formation of a national management-union council on collective bargaining. Representation on this council would be drawn from the National Association of Manufacturers, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The council would constantly examine collective bargaining agreements and methods in order to serve as a central clearing house for disseminating practices found especially efficient in pushing production, making jobs more secure, and promoting a spirit of collaboration between managements and unions."

Carpenters Sent 30 Million Free Cigarettes To Overseas Forces

Indianapolis.—President William L. Hutcheson announced that the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and its members had contributed $67,000 for the purpose of sending more than 30 million free cigarettes to members of the armed forces overseas.

In announcing discontinuance of the cigarette fund now that the war is over, Mr. Hutcheson said the union had received more than 3,200 cards and messages from servicemen expressing appreciation for labor's gifts. He added in a communication to local carpenters' unions:

"In providing 30 million free cigarettes, our Brotherhood achieved an enviable record. Few, if any, organizations in or out of the labor movement can tie such a record. Certainly every local union, district or state council that contributed to the cigarette fund can feel justly proud.

"At the close of hostilities, all moneys remaining in the fund were used to provide free cigarettes for the boys convalescing in our military hospitals. A month-by-month recapitulation of cigarette fund receipts and expenditures has been presented.

"In closing, let me again, on behalf of the general office, express sincere thanks to all local unions, district or state councils that participated in the fund and helped to make it a notable success. The response was magnificent and a genuine tribute to the loyalty, patriotism and generosity of our membership. I am proud of the results achieved and each and every one of you can feel the same."

ILO Moves To Push Full Employment In All Nations At Paris Conference

Paris, France.—The International Labor Office Conference now in session here will go on record as endorsing a series of policies designed to maintain a high level of employment throughout the world.

The policies cover investment, consumer spending, international capital movements and trade, and the planning of industrial reconversion and development in relation to changes in the structure of industry.

Also coming up for consideration is a "children's charter" enumerating a series of general principles for the guidance of the ILO's member countries in developing programs for the welfare of children and young workers.

It suggests that the conference go on record as declaring that governments should accept responsibility "for assuring the health, welfare and education of all children and young persons and the protection of all youthful workers, regardless of race, creed, color or family circumstances, both by national action and by appropriate measures of international cooperation."

The conference was asked to delete all references to the League of Nations from the ILO's constitution.

A report, submitted to the conference by Edward J. Phelan, Acting Director of the ILO, proposed that the constitution be amended to enable the ILO "to deal satisfactorily" with the problems arising from the substitution of the United Nations Organization for the league.

Amendments for this purpose would involve the creation of new rules concerning the ILO's membership, new arrangements for the financing of the organization, and new methods for changing the organization's constitution.

NAVY'S ANTI-LABOR RULING SUSPENDED FOR REVIEW

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department's order against supervisory employes in naval establishments participating in union affairs has been suspended until the President reviews the purposes of the order and makes a decision. This action was taken at the request of the Government Employes Council of the American Federation of Labor.

The order, effective Oct. 18, provides that any supervisor who takes an active part in unions must give up his job or face charges of insubordination leading to discharge. A former order had even provided separation for merely attending a union meeting.

A group representing the council met with Raymond R. Zimmerman, the President's assistant for federal personnel. It was explained to Mr. Zimmerman that the navy's order is contrary to all practices in private employment and to a consistent line of precedents set up by government agencies administering affairs relating to labor.

AFL Urges Demise of NWLB And End of Wage Controls

Council Sets Forth Wage Policy

CINCINNATI.—Text of the AFL executive council's opening declaration on wage policy and the National War Labor Board follows:

The American Federation of Labor strongly opposes any attempt to revive the National War Labor Board.

This board served its purpose during the war. Now that peace is here, it has outlived its usefulness. The members of the board themselves recognized these facts and voted to dissolve the agency by December 15. That decision should be upheld.

The executive council is convinced that continuation of the National War Labor Board will inevitably bring about an increase in strikes and particularly the threat of strikes. It will force labor and management to go to the government for the solution of their disputes instead of finding their own solutions through the orderly and democratic processes of collective bargaining. It will prolong government dictation of economic policies—a condition that has no place or justification in peacetime America.

It is extremely doubtful whether the National War Labor Board could function effectively even if it were resuscitated at this time. Its authority had been weakened almost to the vanishing point when the war ended. New legislation would be required to give its decisions force and effect now.

Such legislation would usher in another period of government by emergency. The executive council believes the nation has had enough of that. The time has come to move in the opposite direction. The time has come for the people of America—including labor and management—to stand on their own feet instead of depending upon the government.

Those who desire prolongation of the National War Labor Board have no confidence in themselves nor in the operation of the free enterprise system. They are ready to admit that the American way of life is a failure.

The American Federation of Labor does not share these views. We firmly believe that the way to establish and maintain industrial peace and stability is to remove government control of wages immediately, instead of reinforcing it.

Much of the present industrial strife has been caused by the government's attempt to regulate the nation's economic life as though the war emergency were to continue indefinitely. We are living in a national atmosphere of fear—fear of inflation. That fear already has resulted in deflation—sharp deflation of the income of the nation's workers. Earnings of many workers have dropped overnight below the subsistence level. Under such conditions strikes are inevitable.

The government cannot enforce strict wage controls against the tide of natural economic forces. That would be vain and dangerous.

The American Federation of Labor calls upon President Truman to adopt a new course. We urge that government controls be dropped promptly and that the National War Labor Board be permitted to pass out of existence.

Meanwhile wage rates should be permitted to rise to their proper level through the free exercise of collective bargaining while every encouragement should be given to business to keep prices down through the operation of normal competition.

Higher Wages Only Road To National Prosperity

Philadelphia.—Unless payrolls are raised in proportion to industry's ability to increase production, the country faces "inevitable disaster."

That belief was voiced by Abe Fortas, undersecretary of the Department of the Interior, at a conference on social work held here.

He said the country has not yet estimated the increased productivity caused by technological developments during the war.

"But even in the prewar years," he declared, "the advances were enormous. In 1940, payrolls in real money were only 4 percent above 1925, although industrial productivity had increased 43 percent.

"It is in this area—the gap between what industry can produce and what people can buy—that a large segment of our problem lies," Fortas emphasized.

"This failure to reflect greater productivity in increased purchasing power is bound to result in industrial unemployment, depressed standards of living and in stagnation of industry itself.

"We must match industry's power to produce with people's power to buy its products if we are to avoid a downward spiral."

Full employment and social security, Fortas insisted, must be made a fundamental basis of our democracy.

Machinists' Convention Opens Oct. 29

New York City.—The first full-fledged convention by a major labor organization since the end of the war will be held by the International Association of Machinists here, beginning Oct. 29.

The convention of this large affiliate of the American Federation of Labor has been called at the earliest date permitted by the Office of Defense Transportation, in order to tackle urgent problems growing out of the reconversion of industry to peacetime operations, Eric Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer of the union, said.

Grand Lodge reports to the delegates of the 21st convention of the 57-year-old organization will show a membership of more than 700,000, with nearly 100,000 who have been inducted into the armed services during the war. The reports will show a phenomenal growth of 465,000 in membership since 1940, with 702 new lodges chartered in the period, Mr. Peterson revealed. They will show that the IAM is the dominant union in the aircraft industry, with 131 aircraft lodges with more than 158,000 members, in addition to the many other members of the union doing aircraft work in contract shops and in the aircraft parts industry. They will reveal wide organization in the air transport industry, where the first agreements with the airlines providing for keeping the same take-home pay with a reduction of hours from 48 to 40 have just been signed by the union and the Eastern Airlines and the United Airlines.

The convention delegates will analyze the problems growing out of reconversion and will chart the course of the organization for the postwar era. Before actions taken by the convention are put into effect, they are submitted in a referendum to the membership for ratification.

Mr. Peterson indicated that the main problems of general public interest to be taken up by the delegates would be cut-backs in industry, reduction of take-home pay, the combined wage movement of the railway shop crafts, and training and retraining for peacetime jobs in industry.

Max Hayes, Dean of Labor Editors, Dies In Cleveland At Eighty

Cleveland.—Max S. Hayes, for almost 50 years the voice of organized labor in this city as editor of The Citizen, died in his home here in his 80th year.

In February, 1941, the dean of American labor editors was honored by 1,500 persons at a testimonial dinner on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of The Citizen. Unable to be present, Mr. Hayes heard the speeches over a special telephone wire.

Mr. Hayes was born in a cabin at Havana, Ohio, after the family of his father, Maximilian Sebastian Hayes, had pushed their way through the wilderness by canal and ox team to found a new home.

At the age of 16 he came to Cleveland and got a position on The Cleveland Press. After an apprenticeship in printing he joined Typographical Union 53.

On Jan. 31, 1891, he founded The Citizen, now the oldest labor paper in the United States.

In 1911 Mr. Hayes ran for president of the American Federation of Labor and was defeated by the late Samuel Gompers. Mr. Hayes and the late Eugene V. Debs, head of the Socialist party, were close friends.

He leaves a widow and a daughter, Mrs. Maxine Davey, who married A. I. Davey, Jr., son of a founder of the Empire Steel Corporation. Mr. Davey began writing articles for The Citizen in 1934, became assistant editor in September, 1938, and managing editor when Mr. Hayes became ill.

Executive Council Acts to Free Labor From Regulation

Cincinnati.—The AFL Executive Council called upon President Truman to permit the National War Labor Board to go out of existence and to remove all government controls over wages immediately.

The Executive Council acted as the President was consulting with members of the NWLB in Washington on the advisability of reviving the agency. The firm stand taken by the Federation's leaders was expected to halt any such move.

Wasting no time in getting down to business, the council opened its fall session by firing a broadside into the advocates of continued federal economic regulation. It warned that prolongation of the life of the NWLB would result in increasing strikes and the threats of strikes, forcing labor and management to go to the government for the solution of their problems instead of settling differences through collective bargaining.

AFL President William Green told newsmen at a press conference that the Executive Council intends to formulate a plan that will reduce strikes to a minimum. He indicated that this plan will be submitted to the forthcoming labor-industry conference by the AFL delegates to that parley.

Mr. Green also revealed that the Executive Council had reaffirmed its decision of last August to forego a national convention this year. While the government's ban on conventions has been lifted since the last council meeting, the AFL leaders decided it would be impossible to make arrangements and obtain accommodations for a convention before the year ends. Therefore, the next AFL convention will take place in October of 1946.

In its statement on the NWLB, the council declared that the board had outlived its usefulness, that its authority had been weakened almost to the vanishing point and that new legislation would be needed to give its decisions force and effect now.

"Such legislation", said the council, "would usher in another period of government by emergency. The executive council believes the nation has had enough of that. The time has come to move in the opposite direction. The time has come for the people of America—including labor and management—to stand on their own feet instead of depending upon the government".

According to reports in Washington, the CIO was the only group to urge continuation of the NWLB.

Without mentioning any names, the executive council said in its statement:

"Those who desire prolongation of the National War Labor Board have no confidence in themselves nor in the operation of the free enterprise system. They are ready to admit that the American way of life is a failure.

"The American Federation of Labor does not share these views. We firmly believe that the way to establish industrial peace and stability is to remove government control of wages immediately, instead of reinforcing it."

The council warned that government policies designed to prevent inflation already have resulted in deflation—"sharp deflation of the income of the nation's workers".

With wage earnings and take-home pay dropping suddenly below subsistence levels, it is no wonder that strikes are taking place, the council said.

Calling upon President Truman to adopt a new course, the council insisted that wage controls can be lifted while price control and rent control are continued until peacetime production and construction are expanded to meet public demands.

Wage rates should be permitted "to rise to their proper level through the free exercise of collective bargaining", the council emphasized. It also urged that business be encouraged to keep prices down through the operation of normal competition.

"Mr. Green said that because of new and cheaper methods of production and because of higher labor productivity, industry for the most part can afford to pay higher wage rates without lifting consumer prices.

ILGWU BUYS BUILDING FOR HUGE MEDICAL CENTER

New York City.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union announced the purchase of the 26-story commercial building at 275 Seventh Avenue from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for the expansion of its Union Health Center, the largest labor medical-care institution in the country.

The 21 clinics comprising the Union Health Center, of which Dr. Leo Price is director, at present occupy the two upper floors of this building.

"We intend to convert a large part of the floor space of this building toward meeting the vastly increased health-care needs of our membership in Greater New York through the services rendered by the Union Health Center," David Dubinsky, the union's president, declared. "This tiny group of clinics, which was started by our union back in 1913 as a tiny pioneering effort in health service, has recorded last year an in-patient attendance of nearly 126,000 persons and expects to double this attendance during the current year."